

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EUR-12 AF-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /085 W

----- 106550

R 061347Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4843

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBSSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7073

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: PUBLIC PESSIMISM OVER PROSPECTS OF WAR

REF: TEL AVIV 6231

1. PESSIMISM IN ISRAEL OVER PROSPECTS OF WAR MOUNTED BETWEEN MID-OCTOBER AND MID-NOVEMBER, ACCORDING TO LATES PORI POLL.

2. IN SURVEY CONDUCTED NOVEMBER 10-15, SOME 62.7 PERCENT OF PEOPLE QUESTIONED BELIEVED WAR WOULD BREAK OUT IN NEAR FUTURE, COMPARED TO 54.7 PERCENT IN OCTOBER SURVEY. AN ADDITIONAL 8.3 PERCENT PREDICTED WAR UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, SUCH AS LACK OF PROGRESS IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, ATTITUDE OF BIG POWERS, OR ISRAEL'S POSITION ON RETURN OF TERRORISTS. ONLY 16.7 PERCENT OF THOSE SURVEYED BELIEVED THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY WAR IN NEAR FUTURE, COMPARED TO 19.5 PERCENT IN OCTOBER. REMAINING 12.3 PERCENT OF THOSE POLLED IN NOVEMBER HAD NO OPINION.

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2. COMMENT: INCREASED PESSIMISM OVER WAR PROSPECTS WAS

MOST LIKELY ACCONTED FOR BY THE UNCERTAINTLY OF THE SITUATION
ON SYRAIN BORDER. POLL WAS CONDUCTED TWO-THREE WEEKS PRIOR
TO SCHEDULD TERMINATION OF UNDOF MANDATE. MOST ISRAELIS
WERE GENERALLY AWARE OF PARTIAL MOBILIZATION CALL-UP DURING AT
LEAST ONE DAY OF POLL. HAD POLL BEEN CONDUCTED FOLLOWING
ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNDOF EXTENSION, RESULTS WOULD PERHAPS SHOW
SOMEWHAT LOWER PERCENTAGE BELIEVING WAR WAS IMMINENT.
DOZIER

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